

**Congressman
Rick Boucher**
invites you to his

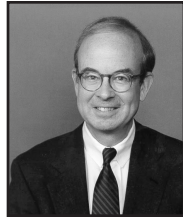
**22nd Annual
Ninth District
Burley Tobacco
Growers'
Conference**

*Burley Tobacco
in the 21st Century*



Monday, Feb. 7, 2005

*Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center
ABINGDON*



Congressman
**Rick
Boucher**

I hope that you will attend my 22nd annual Southwest Virginia Burley Tobacco Growers Conference to be held on Monday, February 7, 2005 in Abingdon. There is no fee for attending the conference, and I think that you will find the presentations to be highly relevant and informative.

At this year's conference, I will provide detailed information concerning the implementation of the tobacco buyout which was enacted into law in 2004. The buyout will begin in 2005, and the conference will provide farmers with timely information concerning participation in it. I have also placed on the program presentations on two promising new directions which farmers in our region may pursue as a way to diversify their farm income.

I have arranged for presentations by expert speakers, including the head of the Burley Tobacco Stabilization Cooperative in Lexington, Kentucky, a representative of the Federal Farm Service Agency, and a representative of a major cigarette manufacturer. These speakers will update farmers on the implementation of the tobacco buyout and will provide information regarding the future of tobacco farming following the buyout. In addition, I have arranged for presentations by individuals who will provide farmers with information on two promising new agricultural opportunities - the production of hair sheep and the production of high quality organic fruits and vegetables.

Our 22nd annual conference will be held at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, which is adjacent to Virginia Highlands Community College, located near exit 14 of Interstate 81 in Abingdon. A map showing directions to the Center is included in this brochure.

I hope that you will join with me and your neighboring tobacco farmers for these discussions. If you plan to attend, please let me know by detaching and returning this registration form to my Abingdon office, or you may fax it to me at 276-628-2203 or call my Abingdon office at 276-628-1145. I look forward to seeing you on Monday, February 7, 2005.

PROGRAM

**Congressman Rick Boucher's
Ninth District Burley Tobacco
Growers' Conference**

***Burley Tobacco
in the 21st Century***

*Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center
Abingdon, Virginia*

Monday, February 7, 2005

In Cooperation with Virginia Farm Bureau

9:00 AM

**WELCOMING
REMARKS**

Rick Boucher
United States Congress

SPEAKERS

Danny McKinney
*Burley Tobacco Growers
Cooperative Association
Lexington, Kentucky*

Nelson Link
*Farm Service Agency
Richmond, Virginia*

RJR Executive
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Lew Taylor
*Director of Meat Operations
Food City, Abingdon, Virginia*

David Redwine
*Scott County Hair Sheep Association
Gate City, Virginia*

Anthony Flaccavento
*Appalachian Sustainable
Development
Abingdon, Virginia*